



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17 as follows:

On the basis of the antibacterial composition described in JP-A 157318/1996, the present inventor has further assiduously studied to improve the antibacterial property and the storage stability of the composition, and, surprisingly as a result, has found that, when a basic compound selected from alkali metal hydroxides, ~~strong basic acid salts~~ acid salts of a strong base not having an aromatic group, and aliphatic amines is added to an antibacterial composition comprising an antibacterial salt compound, an acid group-having polymerizable monomer, a hydrophilic polymerizable monomer and water, then the object as above can be attained. On the basis of this finding, the inventor has completed the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5 as follows:

The invention is an antibacterial composition comprising (a) an antibacterial salt compound, (b) an acid group-having polymerizable monomer, (c) a hydrophilic polymerizable monomer, (d) water, and (e) a basic compound selected from alkali metal hydroxides, ~~strong basic acid salts~~ acid salts of a strong base not having an aromatic group, and aliphatic amines.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 21 as follows:

The antibacterial composition of the invention contains a basic compound (e) selected from alkali metal hydroxides, ~~strong basic acid salts~~ acid salts of a strong base not having an aromatic group and aliphatic amines, for improving the antibacteriability and the storage stability of the composition. Preferably, the basic compound can form a water-soluble salt with the acid group-having polymerizable monomer in the composition. The solubility in

water at 25° C of the salt is generally at least 5% by weight. The alkali metal hydroxides include, for example, sodium, hydroxide, lithium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide. For the ~~strong basic acids~~ acid salts of a strong base not having an aromatic group, preferred are ~~strong basic acid salts~~ acid salts of a strong base to be formed from alkali metals and weak acids having a pKa of at least 3, such as lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, lithium hydrogencarbonate, sodium hydrogencarbonate, potassium hydrogencarbonate, sodium formate, sodium hydrogenoxalate, sodium acetate, potassium acetate, sodium propionate, sodium borate, sodium dihydrogenphosphite, potassium dihydrogenphosphite, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, potassium dihydrogenphosphate, disodium hydrogenphosphate, dipotassium hydrogenphosphate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 1 as follows:

As is obvious from Table 2, the antibacterial compositions comprising MDPB, MDP, HEMA, distilled water, TMDPO, and any of an aliphatic amine, an alkali metal hydroxide or a ~~strong basic acid salt~~ acid salt of a strong base (Examples 4 to 9) completely killed the cells of *Streptococcus mutans* even when the amount of MDPB therein was about 3% by weight of the composition and the concentration of the composition was 5%. In addition, the adhesiveness of these antibacterial compositions was good; and even after stored in a thermostat at 50 °C for 1 month, the compositions did not discolor when observed visually, and their bonding strength to dentin lowered little. As opposed to these, however, the antibacterial compositions containing a basic compound, aromatic amine DEPT or DMAB (Comparative Examples 6 and 7) could not completely kill the cells of *Streptococcus mutans* when their concentration was 5%. In addition, when stored in a thermostat at 50 °C for 1 month, they greatly discolored from colorless to dark brown and their bonding strength to

dentin greatly lowered. The antibacterial composition not containing a basic compound (Comparative Example 8) could not also completely kill the cells of *Streptococcus mutans* even when its concentration was 10%. In addition, when stored in a thermostat at 50°C for 1 month, the bonding strength of the composition to dentin greatly lowered.

Page 48 (Abstract), please delete the original Abstract and insert therefor the substituted Abstract enclosed herewith as a new Page 48.